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Extension Service *Review*

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On the docket for March

■ The Emergency Labor Program is getting into high gear. Farm goals call for continued high production. Next to the weather it is labor that could be the most serious limiting factor in getting the food and fiber needed to win the war. The regular labor force is the smallest on record. Agents are trimming their sails accordingly and setting their course to supply the additional help needed in their own counties. The facts are being assembled and organized for use, showing how many workers are needed and where, as well as where there is a supply of labor and how they can be interested in volunteering their help.

National support for local recruitment is planned much as last year. Some of the spadework, with city and town people especially, can be done

with the national network radio broadcasts, national magazine articles, and advertisements. The Office of War Information is again cooperating with all the facilities at their command. The War Advertising Council is interesting national advertisers in helping to enlist workers. New posters and leaflets on Victory Farm Volunteers and Women's Land Army will be available for distribution to States.

A kit of materials for the use of agents will be available again this year. Suggested news stories, radio scripts, circular letters, local advertisements, and other timesavers for busy agents will be included. This will be sent out within the next few weeks.

March 3-11 is 4-H Club week, with boys and girls in every part of the

country rallying to the slogan, "Dig in for Victory." It is a time for rededication of Head, Heart, Hands, and Health to the welfare of their club, their community, and their country.

1945 Victory Gardens are going underground to make sure of plentiful food for the home front. Gardeners believe with War Food Administrator Marvin Jones that "History shows that nations with ample food supplies are the ones that win victories." The country needs as many Victory Gardens in 1945 as there were in 1944, and extension agents are organizing their efforts to keep gardeners aware of their responsibility for Victory. The garden kits sent out last month contained a number of suggestive helps for agents in putting on garden radio programs, obtaining Victory Garden advertisements, planning the organization to carry on, planning interesting meetings, contests and exhibits, and other aids.

PICTURE OF THE MONTH

Principal character in the new extension farm labor movie, "Victory Harvest," is County Agent Bert Cole, shown (at right) seated at his desk. A black-and-white sound film, it is aimed at nonfarm audiences and should be a handy tool in local farm labor recruitment. The 16-millimeter prints will be available at State Extension headquarters, with a few 35-millimeter prints available on loan from Washington.

IN THIS ISSUE

Director Goff of Hawaii reports on three flourishing cooperatives—Montana recommends 4-H leaders council—A radio station farm director and a home demonstration agent talk about radio—Help needed to control stem rust—County Agent Boswell of Utah gives some tips on meeting the labor problem.



Specializing in service

GORDON LOUDON, Farm Service Director, WWL, New Orleans, La.

■ Among the farm leaders of the Southeast is the WWL Farm Service Department. The farms of three southeastern States—Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama—constitute its farming enterprise, covering an area of nearly 50,000 square miles. This area encloses primary farm listeners to Dixie's Early Edition, sponsored by WWL.

The story of the farm audience of this station is not a quantitative listing of surveys of farm people who may or may not be listening. Rather it is a story of farm incidents and farm results. The aim is to make results our forte.

As much time as possible is spent in the field by the farm service director, talking to farmers and farm leaders, planning a better farm service, and producing programs. But very often the director does not reach all the people personally. Frequently the story comes to the attention of the department by letter, card, or telephone. "I have just bought a small farm; and I need some tools, a plow, a couple of mules, and some information about crops to plant now."

That quotation from a typical letter shows how the WWL Farm Service Department can be of service to farmers—a service that means a substantial aid to the farmers' pocket-books. Those are the kinds of people all over the South who have a part in building their own farm radio service.

We are aware that the farmer will listen to a program that he helps to build, a program that is his. This is the instrument of service that is being created to envelop more and more farmers, farm homemakers, and farm children, as well as urban listeners who have a superficial interest in the interrelation of town and country. Therefore, it is another conscious duty of the WWL Farm Service Department to bring about a better relationship between the two groups and help to close the ranks between the farmer and the businessman.

Our idea is to provide a tool—a farm-radio tool—which has as a purpose two principal tenets, a planned service with regular programs and an

emergency service to make more articulate the measures of the day. At the same time, the department staff continues its "research" by visits and contact to augment each principle.

"The Farmers' Curb Market should have more activity on market days. Will you tell the housewives of the city to visit the market? And will you tell the farmers that the housewives of the city will patronize the market?" That emergency call went out to town and country through our farm programs and brought results. The farmers distributed their fresh produce and, through this act, were stimulated into bringing more and better produce to the city on subsequent market days.

Poultrymen in one area were suffering from a shortage of egg crates. This fact was obvious to the WWL Farm Service Department. Every conceivable source of used and reconditioned crates was contacted, and several thousand crates were located. This information was immediately relayed to the poultrymen.

These are but samples of service

this station is offering southern farmers. As farmers want to know about new ideas and want every piece of information that will affect their farm economy, it is a conscious duty of the WWL Farm Service Department to fill that need with a 50-kilowatt radio tool and two daily quarter-hour morning programs, four on Saturday, and perhaps the only hour-long Sunday morning farm program broadcast. These programs, in the near future, will be augmented by mobile pick-ups from the farm, providing a kaleidoscopic view of southern farming. Remote lines soon will be bringing programs to Dixie's farmers from the Louisiana State University College of Agriculture at Baton Rouge, where the Louisiana Agricultural Extension Division has made a generous contribution of authentic information.

Feeling that a radio-farm program should not be the stepchild of broadcasting, and believing that its effect will be a lasting contribution to the economy of American agriculture, the WWL Farm Service will become more and more a definite part of the agricultural South. We know the need and are expanding our facilities to fulfill that need, which ultimately will insure the farmers of the Southeast a dependable farm-radio service.

Radio is a valuable ally to many a county agent. But it isn't every agent who can team up with such a progressive and forward-looking station as WWL. Mr. Loudon, formerly an extension radio specialist in Louisiana, may have gathered some of his good ideas through Extension. At any rate, his ideas click, sometimes bringing in as many as 500 letters a day. Miss Neely tells the same story from the home demonstration agent's angle.

Six months of Broadcasting

LOUISE W. NEELY, Home Demonstration Agent, Orleans Parish, La.

■ Entering upon home demonstration work in a city as large as New Orleans, La., presents many problems and serves as a challenge to the agent who wishes to reach as many people as possible. New Orleans, always a fast growing city, with a population of approximately 560,280 persons, had literally burst its sides with growing in the spring of 1944. It was at this time that I was assigned as home

demonstration agent of Orleans Parish. Now, Orleans Parish is really the city of New Orleans and one has little opportunity to reach the masses through individual personal contact. With this in mind, a radio program featuring home demonstration work was started on radio station WWL, in cooperation with the agricultural editor of the station, Gordon Loudon. It was not easy to get consecutive

time on such a busy station, but 3 weeks after I started work in the parish, station WWL gave me a 15-minute broadcast at 6.00 A.M., on Saturday morning. This was part of the early morning farm activities of the station and is known as Dixie's Early Edition.

Living 5 miles from the radio station, I had to rise in the dark of the early morning, get a cup of coffee to shake the sleep from my eyes, and to allow for any emergency that might arise in transit. Having recently finished five courses of study in radio work at Loyola University of the South here in New Orleans, I was fully aware that it was well to loosen my vocal chords before going on the air, so lustily I sang as I drove to the radio station and I feel sure that many a worker en route to the shipyard thought that I was a gay and giddy member of society returning home after a night of merriment.

The series of broadcasts was started on April 22 and continued through October 28, relinquishing the time only twice for other broadcasts. These 26 weekly broadcasts covered really just 6 months or one half year, and "oh"—the things that were learned through this experience! Half the broadcasts given were original scripts.

Through the mail that came in the subjects were rated in popularity as follows: Cooking poultry, destroying household insects, canning Christmas foods for overseas, fish and seafood cookery, small fruits for the home garden, canning and preserving pears, meat and meat cookery, insect control in gardens, frame gardens and fall gardens, planning healthful meals—basic seven foods, fixing up floors and cleaning furniture, correct use of pressure cookers, egg cookery, jellies, jams and marmalades, tasty dishes from Louisiana fruits and vegetables, culling poultry. Creole recipes and meal planning, various types of jar closures, care of clothes, blankets, sheets and linens, slip covers, blindness and paralysis of chickens.

The largest number of letters received from one broadcast was 72 and the smallest number was 5. Each broadcast brought some response. The total number of letters and cards received from the series of broadcasts was 565, and through this medium 1,700 agricultural extension bulletins

from Louisiana State University and from the United States Department of Agriculture were distributed on request. These letters came from 20 States: 53 percent of all mail received came from the State of Louisiana, only one-third of the requests in Louisiana came from the City of New Orleans. This might be attributed to two facts. Six A.M. is a little early for urban listeners and perhaps city people are not so prone to sit down and write a card as some of our rural folks.

The States heard from in rate of coverage were as follows: In Louisiana, persons in 69 towns wrote in; in Mississippi, we heard from 47 towns; Alabama, 40 towns; Florida, 24 towns; Georgia, 13 towns; Texas and Arkansas each with 7 towns; Tennessee and Illinois each 4 towns; South Carolina, North Carolina, Indiana, and Ohio, 3 towns each; Oklahoma and Virginia, 2 towns each and one town in West Virginia, New Jersey, Missouri, Kentucky, and Kansas.

Many times persons wrote from the same town, one neighbor telling the next about the program and in this way listeners grew. Often a card would say, "I listen to the program every Saturday." Later in the series of programs, a number of telephone calls came in from the city of New Orleans. There is no accurate way of checking the number of listeners in the city of New Orleans, but I rarely made a talk before any group that some person did not mention hearing the broadcasts.

This series of radio broadcasts has served as one means of contact for the home demonstration agent, helping to introduce her to the people in the parish.

Georgia veterans' advisory committee demonstrates work

A returned veteran and the Clarke County, Ga., Veterans' Agricultural Advisory Committee demonstrated the functioning of a veterans' advisory committee to extension workers at the recent annual conference of the Georgia Agricultural Extension Service. The demonstration followed a day's discussion by representatives of governmental and other agencies which will participate in assisting returned veterans who are interested in farming.

The Clarke County committee, which includes a banker, a cotton buyer, and the president of the local cooperative creamery, in addition to practical farmers and the county agent, demonstrated the assistance that could be rendered to veterans by an advisory committee.

After determining the veteran's background, farm experience, and interest in agriculture, the committee members reviewed the agricultural situation in the county, emphasizing trends and changes which have developed during the veteran's absence. They also gave their opinions on post-war trends which might affect agriculture in the county.

The committee members advised the veteran on land values in the county, types of farming best suited to the locality, and the cost of equipping different type farms. They also told the veteran about the various agencies operating in that county which offer assistance to farmers—*H. W. Field, assistant extension editor, Georgia.*

Wartime clothing workshops

With typical Montana resourcefulness, women of Beaverhead County demonstrated how to solve wartime clothing problems by taking part in clothing renovation workshops in 1944. Thirteen workshops of 4 days each were held throughout the county with 86 women participating.

Prior to the workshops a short planning meeting was held, to which each woman brought a garment which she proposed to renovate. At this meeting, the workshop program and work to be done were outlined. Women were urged to do the necessary ripping, cleaning, and pressing in advance of the workshop and to bring patterns and necessary sewing equipment.

In addition to garments made at the workshops 36 garments were made at home by workshop participants and 34 other garments made by persons not attending but working from ideas emanating from the workshops.

Eight new materials and renovating workshops are planned for this year. Garments probably will include those for women, children, and men as in 1944. Several women's suits were made from men's suits last year.

County agents aid barberry eradication to control stem rust

D. R. SHEPHERD, Assistant Field Leader, Barberry Eradication Program



County Agent R. A. Sandy explains the nature of the stem rust disease to a group of farmers in Wythe County, Va.

■ In 1942 a farmer of Elk Creek, Va., wrote: "About 4 years ago Mr. Jackson and his men dug the barberry from my farm. Since that time my wheat has increased from 10 to 15 bushels per acre." In the spring of 1944 a Fort Spring, W. Va., farmer expressed a similar opinion after seeing the last of the barberry bushes destroyed on his farm—"The barberry eradication crew did a good job on my place. . . . I raised 1,000 bushels of grain last year that averaged 25 bushels to the acre. There was very little rust. My grain is better since the barberry was taken out." A West Virginian from the Wolf Creek District made this statement following the crop season of the same year: "Have observed rust in the Wolf Creek section for the past 20 years. Crops sometimes damaged to the extent that some fields were not worth cutting. Did not know that barberry bushes had so much to do with the spread of rust and was glad to see from the demonstration the relationship between barberry bushes and grain in the development of a rust spread."

So the farmers in Virginia and West Virginia like those in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and certain western-grain-producing States, have learned through bitter experience that barberry bushes mean stem rust and that stem rust is synonymous with unprofitable production.

In the Virginias the native species of barberry, called *Berberis canadensis* by the botanists, grew in abundance in the pastures and along fence rows bordering the fields of wheat and oats. In the spring these plants rusted and spores of the rust were carried by the wind to nearby fields of wheat, oats, barley, and rye. The colorful fields of small grain that held promise of a bumper crop became discolored when the rust came in, and the once sturdy stems went down under the attack of the fungus.

The solution to the problem was obvious. Get rid of the barberry. It was too big a job for the individual farmer, so in 1935 Federal, State, and local agencies moved in and since that time, with the aid of the growers, have destroyed more than 200,000,000 barberry bushes on 5,858 properties

in these two States. County agricultural agents have taken an important part in the barberry eradication project in their respective counties by promoting an active educational program arranging for field rust spread demonstrations, and assisting with the selection of the labor personnel.

Yields have improved, and the farmers in the localities where the work has been done again have faith that their labors will be rewarded by a profitable harvest. Considerable work remains to be done if maximum results are to be attained. As one Virginia agricultural agent said about the condition in his county, "The greatest benefit to the wheat producers will be realized only after the remaining part of the county has been cleared of the barberry."

The native barberry grows in contiguous areas of southeastern West Virginia and southwestern Virginia. So numerous were the bushes before eradication work was started that scarcely a grain field was beyond the reach of the spread of the disease. Many farmers, when shown the barberry bushes—in some cases growing right in the fields of small grain—realized for the first time why small grain crops had always been poor in certain fields.

At the right season of the year the relationship between the rust and the barberry bushes is so obvious that even the untrained eye can pick out the limits of the rust spread. The eradication of the barberry and the consequent reduction in losses are gratifying to farmers and others who argued that barberry eradication would provide local control of the rust disease.

The situation in the Virginias in 1935 was little different from that of 13 Midwestern States in 1918, Pennsylvania in 1935, and Washington State in 1943, when periodic stem rust losses traceable to a sister species of barberry, *B vulgaris*, culminated in the initiation of the eradication program in those States. Throughout the control area Federal, State, and local agencies are now working together to eliminate these plant pests as one measure to control stem rust, the greatest single hazard of small-grain production.

Every barberry is a potential source for the development of new

rices of the stem rust fungus, some grain now resistant to prevalent races. To combat this disease, county agents are now carrying to farmers three recommendations for reducing grain losses from stem rust. The message they give to farmers is: (1) Plant spring crops early and use early maturing varieties, (2) grow improved varieties of wheat, oats, barley, and rye recommended by the State Agricultural Experiment Station, and (3) eradicate all rust-susceptible barberry in grain-producing areas.

In this program for control of stem rust, it is important to drive home the

fact that seed produced by mature barberry plants may accumulate in the surrounding soil and remain there in a dormant condition for 10 or more years after the bush is destroyed. As a result these areas require one or more periodic inspections or reworking until there is no further growth of barberry. This prevents these areas from becoming reinfested with new bushes from seeds that may be in the soil. The county agent has played an important and essential part in getting farmer understanding of these facts and in encouraging his cooperation in the barberry eradication program.

according to Mr. Boswell, was to acquaint the general public with the needs of farmers and the aims of the farm labor program. The newspapers and radio stations were kept fully advised of developments, and through these media the needs were carried to the public.

The city schools offered full cooperation. Students of working age who were willing to do farm work were asked to register, and these cards were kept on file in the local placement office. The businessmen and women throughout the county also were called on. The chamber of commerce, the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H Clubs, church groups, city recreation departments, and other organizations fitted their activities into the needs of the farm labor program.

The net effect of this planning and organization is evident. As the time came when farmers needed extra help, these nonfarm people joined in to help get the job done. To them it was necessary war work, and they recognized they could make no greater contribution than to help save vital war crops.

County Agent Boswell gives full credit for meeting the farm labor problem in Utah County to his capable assistants, to the farm people themselves who worked longer hours than ever, and to the patriotic response of the townspeople who gave so generously of their time. But we have a sneaking notion that none of this could have been accomplished without a swell job of advance planning and organization on the part of County Agent Boswell himself.

County economic talks

Recommendations for the agricultural development of more than a score of California counties, with special reference to post-war farming, have been formulated at a series of economic conferences held recently.

State and county representatives of United States Department of Agriculture agencies and staff members of the State Agricultural Extension Service and of the Giannini Foundation, University of California, presented factual data.

Committees comprised of local farmers and farm women considered vital problems in rural development.

How Utah County met farm labor shortage

■ Farmers in Utah County, Utah, say that as far as farm labor is concerned they got along better in 1944 than they did in peacetime years.

That is a rather startling statement, in view of the fact that this country faced its most critical farm labor shortage in history last year. But don't get the idea there is no big-time agriculture in Utah County. On the contrary, the 3,055 farms in this county produce about everything from sugar beets to sheepskins—from geese to gooseberries. Some 35,000 acres go into alfalfa hay and 25,000 acres into wheat. Principal fruits and vegetables grown in Utah County include apples, peaches, pears, tomatoes, peas, and potatoes. The 1,600 poultrymen of the county produce half a million hens and 200,000 turkeys a year.

Such a variety of crops and live-stock certainly does not indicate the lack of a farm labor problem. When you consider that 9,000 boys from the county have entered the armed services since the start of the war, and that another 9,000 people are employed in a large steel mill within the county, you wonder how there is anybody left to work on the farm. To add further to the competition for labor, there are in the county 5 canning factories and several mines where large numbers of people are employed.

So when Utah County farmers say they have got along better than before

the war, they don't mean they had no labor problem. But they do mean the labor was forthcoming, and the problem was met so successfully that one is apt later to forget its seriousness.

The answer is a story of outstanding community cooperation and organization. It is also one of early planning and anticipation of needs long in advance of the time farmers actually require extra workers.

At a regional farm labor conference in Salt Lake City last December, County Agent S. R. Boswell was asked to tell the story of how the farm labor problem was met in Utah County. He gave an impressive account of how farmers met with the county agent and his farm labor assistants in a gigantic county-wide meeting early in the spring—and following that meeting, of how community farm labor committees were set up throughout the county, and recruitment and placement offices were established in nine different communities, each in charge of a competent person.

The Utah County Farm Labor Association was organized and incorporated. Working directly under the Extension Service, this group was unusually active in the farm labor program. In addition to aiding with local recruitment, the association also cooperated with the Office of Labor in the operation of two farm labor camps.

The first and most important job,

Three flourishing cooperatives in one Hawaii district

ROY A. GOFF, Acting Director of Extension, Hawaii

■ "Full-fledged and organized cooperative effort will be the key to successful development in our future agricultural economy," said Reuben Brigham, assistant director of extension work, when he visited Hawaii recently.

Hawaii's farmers are right in line with this trend. In one district of the Island of Hawaii, three cooperatives, all started since 1938 with the help of extension workers, have developed into healthy, flourishing organizations. Much of the credit for their success is due to the consistent, constructive work of Harvey Vollrath, farm agent in east Hawaii.

The three cooperative organizations are the Hilo Egg Circle, the Hawaii Dairy Herd-Improvement Association, and the Hawaii Pork Producers' Association.

Egg Circle Outgrowing Its Building

The Hilo Egg Circle is the selling and buying organization for 43 poultrymen. Just prior to the war the membership was 22. The Circle's building in Hilo houses candling equipment and an egg cooler. It also has space for storing feed and egg cartons. S. Kadota, business manager for the Circle, says that the building is now too small for the cooperative's expanding business. However, new construction will have to wait until the war is won.

At a handling charge of 2 cents per dozen, approximately 9,000 dozen eggs per month pass through the Hilo plant. Before the war, the average was 5,000 dozen.

Hawaii's poultrymen have never produced enough eggs to supply the local demand. Fresh island eggs are often scarce in the markets. For this reason, hospitals have number one priority on the Circle's eggs.

"The hospitals appreciate being able to depend on a supply of quality eggs from us," Mr. Kadota says.

The egg cooperative was organized in September 1940, with 10 charter members, 8 of whom were members of the East Hawaii Poultry Improvement Club. This club, under the

supervision of County Agent Vollrath, had for 3 years received instruction in up-to-date poultry practices.

Former Extension Poultry Husbandman B. A. Tower and former Extension Economist Kenneth Hanson helped with the preliminary educational work necessary to sell the cooperative idea to the poultrymen.

"These extension specialists deserve much credit for the Hilo Egg Circle's success," Mr. Vollrath says.

Besides marketing the members' eggs, the Circle buys feed and resells it at cost.

No membership fee is collected, and members are not required to purchase stock. Expenses of carrying on the business are prorated to each member in proportion to the number of eggs handled for him.

Any county agent who thinks he cannot start a dairy herd-improvement association because the dairymen in his district are not much interested might do as Mr. Vollrath did. He started his "organization" in 1938 with one dairy. Mr. Vollrath himself acted as milk tester during the first year, sending milk samples to the University of Hawaii for butterfat test. Six months after he began work with the first dairy, a second dairy asked for the testing service. The two dairies then hired a part-time tester.

The East Hawaii Dairy Herd-Improvement Association was formally organized on January 1, 1941, with 9 dairies which altogether had 230 cows.

Average milk production per cow at the dairy that started first has increased in 5 years from 5,812 pounds to 9,646 pounds. This dairy's herd numbers between 40 and 50 head.

The Hawaii Pork Producers' Association operates a cooperative slaughterhouse, the only centralized killing plant on the island. Capacity of this slaughterhouse has been stepped up to 100 hogs a day for off island shipment. Before the building of this plant, hogs were killed by individuals at their own piggeries.

The membership of the association



Harvey Vollrath, formerly agent in East Hawaii, now acting specialist in animal husbandry at the territorial office.

is made up largely of men who for many years have worked together in the Hilo University Extension Swine Club. Together they planned their slaughterhouse, a concrete and stucco building, and financed its construction. The building cost \$8,500. The cooperative now slaughters about 90 percent of all hogs killed on the Island of Hawaii and processes the hogs at the rate of 1 cent per pound. Hiroshi Akamine, a member of the association, is manager of the slaughterhouse.

The three producers' cooperatives described here are a lasting tribute to the plugging, conscientious work of County Agent Harvey Vollrath. We have now brought Mr. Vollrath to the Territorial office where he is assistant in the animal husbandry division.

DIRECTOR L. R. SIMONS of

New York received the Distinguished Service Award from the American Farm Bureau Federation at their recent meeting in Chicago. In making the award, President Edward A. O'Neal said: "His life has been devoted to the improvement of country life, and country living is the better for his labors. . . .

" . . . We in the Farm Bureau honor him for his courage and his forthrightness in meeting issues squarely and for the great extension program which he has developed in New York."

Community 4-H leaders council

CLARIS P. BROWN, Home Demonstration Agent, Cascade County, Mont.

■ Unique in Montana's 4-H program is the Lower Sun River Leaders Council which was organized July 22, 1933, at the North Montana State Fairgrounds. Leaders from the six clubs in the community were charter members.

Since its organization, the council has functioned continuously. Its purpose is, in general, to promote 4-H Club work in the community and assist with the program of clubs there. Activities in which the council has taken an active part include sponsoring the county achievement day program, holding rallies for the promotion of 4-H Club work in Lower Sun River, and holding picnics and social activities for its members and prospective leaders in the community. A wartime project has been the making of a service flag representing boys and girls in the service who have been, 4-H Club members. The flag now has 50 stars on it. The former home demonstration agent, Florence Johnson, has been "adopted" and is represented on their service flag.

The council holds meetings monthly and always stands ready to assist with activities of community- and county-wide interest. The home demonstration agent attends when matters of county-wide interest are to be discussed.

The past year 26 leaders of 10 home economics and 4 agricultural clubs, with 133 members, have been members of the council.

They are proud of their record in 4-H Club work. In 1943, the clubs in the Lower Sun River community purchased \$1,050 in war bonds and stamps. They gathered 2,500 pounds of scrap metal and paper and 30 pounds of waste fat; \$2,000 worth of socks were sold, and the members helped can more than 1,500 quarts of fruits and vegetables, aside from their regular projects.

Since 1933 they claim having had 12 members and 9 leaders attend the State 4-H Club camp, and 12 members have been delegates to the National 4-H Club Congress. Many have been State winners of contests.

A new approach to planning

NOBLE CLARK, Associate Director, Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station and Chairman of the Land-Grant College Committee on Post-war Agricultural Policy

Noble Clark has been closely associated with agriculture all his life. Born in South Dakota, he was reared on a Minnesota farm, and taught animal husbandry at Michigan State College. He served as county agricultural agent for 5 years in Ontonagon County, Mich., and has been associate director of the Wisconsin Experiment Station since 1927.

■ The report on post-war agricultural policy, compiled by a special committee appointed by the Land-Grant College Association in 1943, represents a new approach toward solving important agricultural problems. The document, which is now available to all extension workers through their State agricultural colleges, sets out for inspection by those responsible for agricultural policy making, the high lights of problems in both physical and social science fields that will face farmers and the Nation in the post-war years.

The members of the committee included some of our ablest men and women in many technical agricultural

fields. All sections of the country were represented. Three outstanding State directors of extension took an active part. The suggestions and judgment of representatives of all 48 agricultural colleges, of specialists and experts in the USDA, of the officers and research staffs of the national farm organizations, were taken into account. Considering the thoroughness with which the committee went about its investigations, I believe it is justified in the belief that it has made a strictly professional contribution.

The committee believes that, in planning post-war agricultural policy, those called upon to present the facts

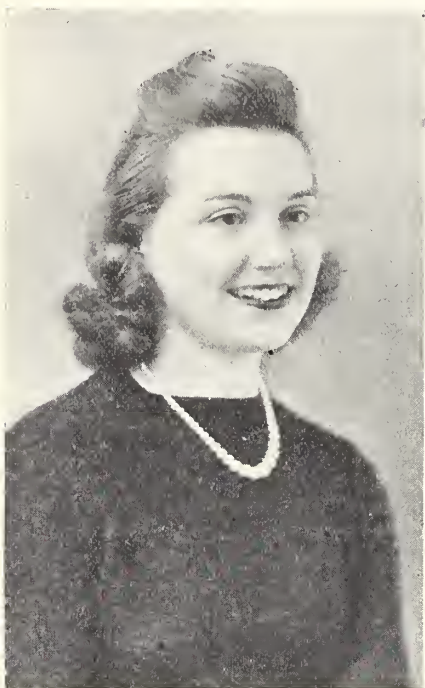
should be allowed to do so entirely on the basis of professional independence. There should be no strings attached. For this reason the committee insisted from the start that it, and it alone, would be responsible for its findings. It was never intended that the report was to be reviewed by the executive body of the Land-Grant College Association, nor did it have to be approved by the Department of Agriculture. Thus it is not an official document to be regarded with reverence by either the college staffs or Department officials. Yet each can use the report to great advantage, because it represents a synthesis of the best information available to professional students who spent a considerable amount of time and sincere effort in compiling it. Its contents should be weighed in the balance of critical study and wide discussion among farm people.

I hope that other groups, besides agriculture, will see fit to approach their post-war planning on a similar basis. Our learned institutions have rightfully insisted on their academic freedom. As individuals we have made much of freedom of speech. But we have not yet widely adopted any effective pattern whereby technical people employed by public agencies can have the freedom of presenting their personal professional views to the public for unfettered discussion, on the basis of information compiled cooperatively by a group of such people. The post-war agricultural policy report represents a step in this direction. We hope that other groups will be allowed to have as wide an opportunity to state publicly in as objective a manner their views on significant problems. And then we hope that wide public consideration will be given to all such reports, so that the policy-making bodies of our Republic may take the necessary action to build a sound economic structure for our post-war future.

SPRING CLEAN-UP WEEKS will start this month in the South with 4-H Clubs, home demonstration clubs, neighborhood leaders, and other groups making a concerted effort to clean up the home grounds, the barnyard, and the roadsides to remove fire and accident hazards and to make the home place more beautiful and satisfying.

Big 4-H Club year in Maine's potato empire

CLARENCE A. DAY, Extension Editor, Maine



Mrs. Camilla Hurford

■ The contribution of boys' and girls' 4-H Clubs to the Food for Victory program is no exception to the rule that Aroostook County—Maine's potato empire—does things in a big way—when convinced of their value. The year before Pearl Harbor, Aroostook had 568 club members; this year 4,399 members started 5,748 projects and completed 97 percent of them.

How was this accomplished? By cooperation, organization, enthusiasm, a sense of patriotic duty, and good hard work.

Mrs. Camilla Hurford, county club agent, was the captain of the team. Three assistant club agents served for short periods in the spring when members were enrolled and again in the fall when the work was completed. Then at critical times the county agent, assistant county agents, home demonstration agents, and food production assistants all pitched in, especially to obtain enrollment and reports.

The cooperation of the school au-

thorities was obtained, and nearly every grade school in the county where there were pupils of club age was visited by an extension worker. At the school the agent explained the need for more food as a war measure, told the children how they could help, and gave them club literature and enrollment cards to take home to their parents. When the parents gave their consent, they signed the card, and the boy or girl took it back to the teacher who forwarded it to Mrs. Hurford. Much credit is due the teachers for undertaking this extra work.

In addition to the regular club leaders more than 350 busy men and women were enrolled to act as victory guides for the club members in their immediate neighborhoods. The regular club leaders and guides advised and encouraged the boys and girls, saw that they started their projects and gave them the proper care, and that they completed their work and made the final brief reports. The 350 new local leaders and the regular club leaders deserve great credit for the success of the Food for Victory projects.

During the summer, club field days were held in nearly every community in northern and central Aroostook. Attendance at these meetings of both members and victory guides was exceptionally good, and the field days proved most valuable in maintaining interest in the work. One of these field days was held on the summit of Haystack Mountain, the lone sentinel peak in central Aroostook, which played an important part as a lookout station in the famous but bloodless Aroostook War of a century ago.

When the schools opened in the fall, Mrs. Hurford and her helpers again visited them and, with the help of teachers, obtained record sheets and report cards. The people in the upper valley of the St. John River along the Canadian border are mainly descended from French refugees from the land of Evangeline in Nova Scotia who found a haven there 160 years ago. Here the sisters in the convent schools

were especially helpful. Each club member who completed his project was awarded a Food for Victory certificate when he submitted his final report.

Aroostook is a big county. It is 155 miles from Molunkus on the Penobscot River to Madawaska on the St. John and nearly 50 miles farther to Allagash, the last little hamlet tucked away deep in the Great North Woods. So 3 district exhibitions were held to round out the club year—one for the northern section of the county at Fort Kent, one for the central at Presque Isle, and the other for the southern at Houlton. Nearly 2,000 club members, victory guides, and friends attended these exhibitions. At Fort Kent more than 1,000 members took part in the 4-H parade. Fort Kent alone has 799 club members, the largest number in any town in Maine.

Results in the terms of food? Well, among other things Aroostook boys and girls raised 574 bushels of dry beans, 19,000 dozen ears of sweet corn, 81,021 bushels of potatoes, and 12,270 square rods of garden truck; raised or reared for 35,385 chickens, 1,099 dairy animals, 1,006 pigs, and 5,514 laying hens; besides canning 49,657 pints of fruits, meats, and vegetables. Total value of their produce was estimated at \$277,000, and most of it will be consumed at home.

What about the coming year? Mrs. Hurford says this: "The outlook for 1945 is very promising. Several clubs have already reorganized; boys and girls in St. Luce, St. Francis, Allagash, and Madawaska, in the extreme north of the county, are ready to organize new clubs; and there are many possibilities for new clubs in southern Aroostook. Clubs for next year seem to be in great demand, owing to the increased interest in unorganized areas brought about by the Food for Victory campaign."

■ Seven hundred boys and girls in 33 4-H Clubs in Los Angeles County, Calif., have produced 16 tons of beef, pork, and mutton; 19 tons of rabbit meat; 5 tons of poultry meat; 1 ton of turkey, goose, and squab meat; 210 dozen eggs; and 17 tons of vegetables. They have managed 38 dairy animals for milk, butter, and cheese; gathered ½ ton of honey; canned and dehydrated 2 tons of food; and made 1,150 garments.

"I have the best job in the world,"

writes Frances Sanders, 4-H Club agent, Lewis County, W. Va., in the Berea Alumnus, from Berea College where she graduated in 1943. A home demonstration agent, Nell Jo Click, of Greenup, Ky., sent the article to the REVIEW because it seemed to her that "extension agents all over the country would receive inspiration from it."

■ Thirteen years is a long time for a graduate of the class of '43 to have been working. My job began for me that long ago for then I joined a 4-H Club. Eleven years I was a local 4-H Club member in West Virginia, 11 years while I completed grade school, high school, and college. It seemed only natural that there should follow a job as a 4-H Club agent in West Virginia. I came to Lewis County equipped with a college degree in home economics, 10 years' experience in 4-H Club work, and a driver's license.

Then began my education.

I had lots to learn, most of it the hard way. The least of my lessons was driving a car. An accredited State trooper had given me a driver's test. I knew all the signals and all the definitions. My brother had carefully tutored me over all the streets of our home town. Nobody had told me that there's a big difference between paved streets and ruts in a mud road, but I learned. I think I'll always remember the expressions on the faces of two small boys who stood across the fence and watched my struggles the first time I stalled my car on a 10-foot slope. I couldn't even back down to the bottom of the slope to start over again! Not at first try anyway. I remember the first time I drove up a creek bed—and the \$12 it cost to have the fenders fixed. Perhaps the most potent example of the metamorphosis of an extension worker is the picture of me today—pals with "Junior," my car, fairly able to get over most roads, wise enough to park Junior occasionally and walk a mile or two in order to be sure of getting there and back.

My biggest lessons have come from the people themselves. I grew up in town; rural people to me were "farmers" in the most uncomplimentary sense of the word. I have come to know them as the best, the most nearly real, people in the world. When I came to the county they opened their homes to me with cour-

tesy and with warmth. They taught me that I had come to work not "at them" nor "for them" but with them. In turn they laughed with me when I blew up a jar during my first canning demonstration. They still love to tease me about that and they always will. Now, with our country at war, rural people are showing themselves as they really are. Labor is scarce, materials hard to get, profits hard to make, but harder than ever they are going about their business of farming. They know that food has to be produced, and they are producing it under hard conditions in greater quantities than even they thought possible. They command my respect as well as my love.

I have learned, too, to love the land not only for its beauty, but for its possibilities of producing and for its need of man's care. This county is more than the field where I work. It is my home and my possession, though I own not one acre.

We Agents Get Along Together

A job is as good or as bad as the people doing it. In this respect I am extremely lucky. The home demonstration agent with whom I work is Edna Cole Yost, Berea '35. We click, Edna and I. Half the fun of our job is the fun of sharing. We've had a county agricultural agent with whom we enjoy working, too. Someone has aptly described West Virginia Extension Service as one big happy family. That is largely true and a real part of what success we have.

No one has ever successfully described the agricultural extension agent's job. The Smith-Lever Act, under which we began, says: ". . . to diffuse among the people of the United States information related to agriculture and home economics and to encourage application of the same." To find what my job has been I look through our files of monthly reports. I find such things as:

"Fourteen community exhibits were held over the county. Projects in

baking, sewing, and foods-for-fun were exhibited.

"Twenty-six old clubs and one new club have been organized this month. A letter has been prepared to be sent to parents as soon as addresses are available. Where there is a successful club member there is a successful parent."

"With the local soil conservationist, I visited club members' homes, helping them choose sites for planting trees and demonstrating the method of planting."

"A day was spent assisting the local Red Cross officials with their rural organization."

"Attending five farm women's club meetings the home demonstration agent and I showed how to make a home-made dress form, and how to use and care for sewing machines and attachments."

"As county roads improved, my car became a truck; and I brought a load of scrap paper from nearly every community I visited. 4-H Clubs collected 50,000 pounds of paper this year."

"This month I have handled publicity for our county farm labor committee."

Certainly my job has variety of interest and activity. There is no time for boredom or for loafing.

I wish that I could say I've been a huge success after this year as an agent. I haven't. There are goals to be reached that still are far beyond my dreams; there are lessons still to be learned; there are challenges to be met. But there are a few signs of accomplishment which I cherish.

In the first place, there's a lamb named "Sandie"—symbol with one club boy that I've arrived!

There's the little girl who gladly leads her friends in singing their club songs when they have meetings. This time last year she only hung her head and giggled.

And there are the kids all over the county who have taught me to see through the dirt and the cleanliness and to recognize their likeness and their differences. They are my friends, and they give me faith to try again.

I don't know whether this year I've been of any help to the people in Lewis County. I hope I have. I owe that to them, you see. They've done such wonders for me!



Extension agents join fighting forces

Eleven extension workers have made the supreme sacrifice. More than 1,300 extensioners serve their country in the armed forces. These men and women are in many parts of the world and in various branches of the service. Sometimes their experiences are a far cry from those of pre-war days. News of their doings and excerpts from their letters are printed on this page.

Extension's Gold Stars

- J. L. Daniels, formerly assistant county agent in Madison County, Ala., died, as a result of wounds received at Guadalcanal, in December, 1942. He was in the Marines.
- Lt. A. D. Curlee, formerly county agent in Alabama, Army, killed in action April 6, 1943.
- Ensign Tom Parkinson, formerly assistant county agent in Henry County, Ind., Navy, missing in action in the Southwest Pacific.
- Capt. Frank C. Shipman, of Nebraska, Army, killed in action.
- 1st Lt. Leo M. Tupper, of Nebraska, Army, killed in action.
- William Flake Bowles, formerly assistant agent in Watauga County, N. C., Army, reported missing in action on the Italian front.
- Ensign Robert H. Bond, of the Federal Extension staff, Washington, D. C., Navy, reported missing in action in the Southwest Pacific.
- Capt. J. B. Holton, formerly county agent in La Salle Parish, La., was killed in action in Europe during the invasion, June 9.
- Capt. Frank Wayne, formerly county agent in Bernalillo County, N. Mex., killed in a vehicle accident in England.
- Kenneth C. Hanks, formerly county agent in Stevens County, Minn., has been reported killed in action in France, November 16, 1944.
- Herbert Pinke, formerly part-time 4-H Club agent in Minnesota, was killed in a training accident in the armed service.

Farming in England

I've been all over this island and feel that I know it pretty well by now. I am interested in the way the farming practices are carried out. Farming is on such a small scale over here. The farms are divided into 5- and 10-acre fields, and this makes the use of modern equipment difficult; and as a result they have much wasted labor. For instance, most of the plowing is done by the walking plow; one man or a Land Army girl leads the horse, and another man follows the walking plow. The other day I actually counted seven men and women loading one rack of bundles. One was leading the horse, four were pitching bundles, and two were on the wagon placing them. Then there is the inevitable tea break which occurs at least once every morning and afternoon. All jobs seem to be handled like this, and to me it seems like a great loss of man-hours.

The crops, on the whole, have been very good here this year. Nearly all of the small grains have been cut (Sept. 3) and are being stacked. I've not seen a single combine in operation. As this is the home of many of our purebred livestock, one runs across some very fine individuals; but the condition of most of them is poor on account of the shortage of feed.

I've taken a number of color pictures with my Argus 35. Here's hoping they'll turn out good because I know the folks back home will enjoy them. Say, you know there is one thing that really gets my goat. Every

time I pick up the Stars and Stripes or read a paper from back home, I find the sports page loaded with names of boys making good in the Big Time. Guess I'm just jealous of all those fellows I used to knock around with. More power to 'em, the lucky bloats. Here's hoping to see you all in the very near future.—*Lt. W. W. Duitsman, Osage County Agent, Kans.*

From Harvard University

The Navy has seen fit to make a communications officer of me, and here I am at Harvard. We live in the regular Harvard dorms. The one I'm in was built in 1760.

I know that extension work is going along at its usual fast pace and that the agents still have plenty to do. I have stopped in each county agent's office every time I've had a chance and have talked with several here and elsewhere, and I still think Missouri has the best set-up. The Ohio fellows seem to be more like Missouri than most of the others.

I have been surprised in talking with the various men to learn how many, even in this group, are planning to go back to the farm when the war is over. There is another group of youngsters who had just finished college when the war broke out that have nothing else to go back to. These are viewing the future more or less uneasily. This being the situation in a group of college graduates, supposedly trained men, it must be true to an even greater extent in the enlisted group. I'm beginning to wonder if the Extension Service may not have its greatest job to do after the war is over rather than during the remainder of the war.—*Ens. Charles R. Kyd, U. S. N. R., formerly extension animal husbandman, Missouri.*

To the aid of English farmers

In much the same way that we are meeting the farm labor shortage here, English crops are harvested. A recent release from the Ministry of Agriculture announces that about 70 miners in the Doncaster area are giving up their holidays to work on the land, and from the Thorne area 40 men have come forward. To get a break from pit life and a change of surroundings, most of the miners chose to work on farms outside Yorkshire.

England also has its version of the Victory Farm Volunteers, reporting 2 young sisters, Pamela and Jean Waldron who are Derby's top-line volunteer land workers. At the first annual meeting of the town's voluntary land club, recently held at the guild hall, they received prizes for last year's work on the land. Pamela, aged 15, headed the list by putting in 120 hours of her spare time on farms between May and October last. Her elder sister, Jean, was second with 101 hours' work on the land. They both work for the same industrial company, and they became eligible for a grant of 15 extra clothing coupons by completing 88 hours' service as farm workers and promising to continue.

Another hardshell in the Pacific, November 27, 1944

This letter finds me a "salty sea-going Kansan." I have been aboard the Genesee for about 1½ months, and we have certainly been on the go. My first trip took me south of the equator to a nice desolate coral atoll. The island had three or four scrub palm trees on it. I think the army boys must have brought those in.

The white coral dust reflected the light just like snow. It was plenty hot. The uniform of the day included shoes, hat, and shorts. The army boys sure had a tan. I don't envy those boys having to stay there; but the planes bring in the mail every day, so they hear from the outside world oftener than we do.

While we were discharging our cargo, we did some deep-sea fishing and shell hunting. We obtained a boat from which a couple of fellows caught a mackerel each that weighed

between 15 and 20 pounds. Another fishing party had better luck. They caught about a dozen tuna that would average from 15 to 25 pounds. I guess I went along just for the ride. I did go over on the pier and caught six barracuda and three salt water perch. The barracuda would weigh about 2 or 3 pounds and were very good eating.

Shell hunting is also a good pastime. One can find all kinds and colors of shells. I have a pretty nice collection started. Several fellows are making necklaces out of the shells. Back in our home port we can see the same shells on sale in curio shops for 10 to 25 cents each or in necklaces from \$10 to \$15. Some of the crew are making some extra pocket money that way.

My job on board ship is assistant communications officer; in charge of one-half of the deck division; and a junior watch officer. I like the communications work real well, have very nice living quarters on the ship, and our food is good. The ship is practically new, having been commissioned in May. It is a Cargill Grain Company ship built in Minneapolis.

The second island we hit after I got on board was another coral island but a lot smaller, just about a mile and a half long and one-half mile wide, with no vegetation of any kind. At present we are headed south again to the first island. This crossing the equator has quite a ceremony that goes with it. I am now a "shellback." This trip we have five pollywogs to initiate and make into shellbacks. The initiation reminds one of his college days as a fraternity or a Block and Bridle initiate. It affords a couple of days of good entertainment and helps to pass the time.

We don't get mail until we get back to home port, and that will be about 20 days on this run. When we get back in we will all have a big stack of very welcome mail. One of the fellows got 59 letters the last time.

Our home port is back in civilization. It has a very red soil and really grows the tall cane and has some fruit trees up in the mountains. I haven't had time to get out and see how they farm. If we can ever settle down in port long enough, I am going to make a trip out in the country.—*Ens. B. D. Rowley, Haskell County agent, Kansas.*

Protector of fighting men, cows, and carrier pigeons

My work continues much as it has for the past several months, with our main emphasis on malaria training. Units come and go, and it seems that the Port has about the same figure. In addition to my routine work, I've been asked to plan and carry out several tests of the use of DDT in a practical manner. We have on the Port a dairy herd of some 65 animals, and the various barns were used in the tests. I won't burden you with detail, but the one treatment gave us 8 weeks of excellent fly control inside the barn and milking parlor.

Oh, yes, we have a few apple trees in a certain general's headquarters; and scale and our old friend the codling moth have come in for their share of calls. I've made numerous contacts with vets, and among the problems have been stored-grain pests and care of their bugs for some 4,000 carrier pigeons.—*Capt. George D. Jones, Army, formerly extension economist, Missouri.*

■ Sgt. H. K. Newton, former agricultural agent in Boone County, Nebr., reported in November from New Guinea where they had "about all the luxuries of a garrison back home with the exception of some good rich ice cream." His service section had built a home-made washing machine run by a jeep motor and consisting of eight individual compartments.

THE ROLL CALL

(Continued from last month)

COLORADO

Ensign Donald W. Acott, Sedgwick County agent, Navy.

Private Harold F. Alishouse, Yuma County agent, Army.

O/C Stanton A. Bice, administrative assistant, Fort Collins.

FLORIDA

Ensign A. D. Baillie, acting agent, Marion County, Navy.

Kenneth A. Clark, Washington County agent, Army.

Ensign G. T. Huggins, assistant agent, Duval County, Navy.

Ensign M. B. Miller, Bay County agent, Navy.

OHIO

Eugene L. Sparrow, Fulton County agent, Navy.

Eldon Studebaker, Paulding County agent, Navy.



Flashes

FROM SCIENCE FRONTIERS

A few hints of what's in the offing as a result of scientific research in the U. S. Department of Agriculture that may be of interest to extension workers, as seen by Marion J. Drown, Agricultural Research Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

■ **Sew up the sponge.** The possibility of developing sponges that can safely be sewed up in surgical wounds because they can be absorbed by the body is being investigated at the Northern Regional Research Laboratory at Peoria, Ill. The sponges are made of starch paste slowly frozen and then thawed. The paste may be frozen and thawed in shallow pans and then cut into pieces of the required size and shape. A dry starch sponge is hard and somewhat brittle, but it will quickly absorb about 15 to 18 times its weight of liquid. When wet, the sponge is soft and pliable and will retain most of the liquid in it if gently handled. It has been shown that the starch dissolves in blood serum. These properties suggested the use of the sponges as surgical dressings. One of the advantages would be that wounds and incisions would not have to be reopened to remove dressings. The starch sponges would also be valuable in surface wounds, where tissues are sometimes torn when dressings are removed. The sponge might be filled with a medicinal solution, such as one of penicillin or a sulfa drug, which would be gradually released as the starch dissolves.

■ **Unsung heroes.** Among the unsung heroes of the war are several Florida Negroes who work at the Orlando, Fla., laboratory of the Division of Insects Affecting Man and Animals of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. Twice a week they knock off whatever work they are doing, bare their backs, and permit 40,000 lice to feed on their blood. Bureau entomologists have to raise large numbers of lice to use in testing new insecticides (including DDT). The insects have to be fed on human blood; no other source of food has been found satisfactory. Acting as a lunch counter for lice does not involve

much loss of blood, as four-sevenths of an ounce is the estimated amount taken at one feeding. Welts are sometimes raised on the backs of the subjects, and these are treated afterwards to relieve irritation. There is no danger of infection from these laboratory-bred-and-raised insects. Nevertheless, it takes courage to submit to 40,000 bloodsuckers regularly, and we think the men who do it, and thus help science to find better ways to keep humanity in general free from these and other dangerous pests, are doing a public service.

■ **It knocks out the flies, not you.**

Chemists in the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine have perfected a household fly spray that is odorless and will not cause irritation to the skin or nose of the user. This spray material is the result of a new method of purifying the powerful insecticide, pyrethrum, which is deadly to flies, mosquitoes, and many other insect pests but not poisonous to man. The process employs a new solvent called nitromethane, which removes the irritating impurities from the usual petroleum extract of pyrethrum flowers. When the nitromethane is distilled off, practically pure pyrethrins—the insecticidal ingredients—are left. The new process produces a much more concentrated and powerful insect poison than has been available heretofore and one that is well suited for use in the aerosol-bomb dispenser. After the war, with such ammunition and such a weapon we should have a better chance of victory in our battle against the bugs.

■ **Tracking down the vitamins in cabbage.** Research workers have a lot in common with detectives. The difference is that the sleuths of the laboratory are not always hunting criminals, though no public enemies are more dangerous than some of the

microbes sought by bacteriologists. At the U. S. Regional Vegetable Breeding Laboratory at Charleston, S. C., however, vegetable-crop specialists have been making determinations on the amounts of vitamins B₁, B₂, and C lurking in the various parts of cabbage heads. The scientists found that the six outside or wrapper leaves—the flaring dark-green ones that almost never reach the table or even the kitchen—contain the greatest quantity of each. Early in the summer, the outer leaves of the solid head were higher in vitamin content than the inside leaves; but in the fall there is a tendency for more of the vitamins to be found in the younger, inner leaves. Cabbage has not been recognized as a vitamin source comparing with the leafy greens such as kale; but the wrapper leaves contain as much or more of vitamins C, B₁, and B₂. The greatest emphasis should be placed on the vitamin C in cabbage, as it contains about a thousand times as much of C as either of the other vitamins.

■ **Avoid overconfidence about hog cholera.** Comparatively light losses of pigs from cholera occurred in 1944. The combined efforts of swine growers, veterinarians, and the producers of anti-hog-cholera serum seem to have brought the disease under unusually effective control this year. But that does not mean that hog cholera is no longer a danger. Pigs that have not received treatment with anti-hog-cholera serum are not immune to the disease, and only 43 percent of the estimated number of hogs produced in the first 9 months of 1944 were treated with the serum. That means that more than half the hogs in the United States were not immune to hog cholera. According to the Bureau of Animal Industry, losses of swine from hog cholera increase and recede in waves. After a period of light losses, there has always been an increase in number of deaths among nonimmune swine. The best way to hold such losses down is to keep nonimmune hogs, so far as possible, in lots away from public highways, quarantine new stock in separate pens for several weeks, and keep visitors away from places where hogs are kept, especially if cases of hog cholera have appeared in the neighborhood.

Demonstration day in Washington

■ Enthusiastic farmers are greeting the Washington Demonstration Day, with its "guides to successful farming," as it rolls through the second month of its tour. With some 20 well-attended meetings now behind it, the program will go into most of the remaining counties of Washington State before the end of March, to complete the 3-month tour of demonstration "open-houses" sponsored by the Extension Service.

The program got under way January 16 on the State College of Washington campus when farm leaders and representatives of farm organizations okayed a "kick-off" preview. Most of these "guides," planned in cooperation with farm leaders and organizations, are being demonstrated by State extension specialists.

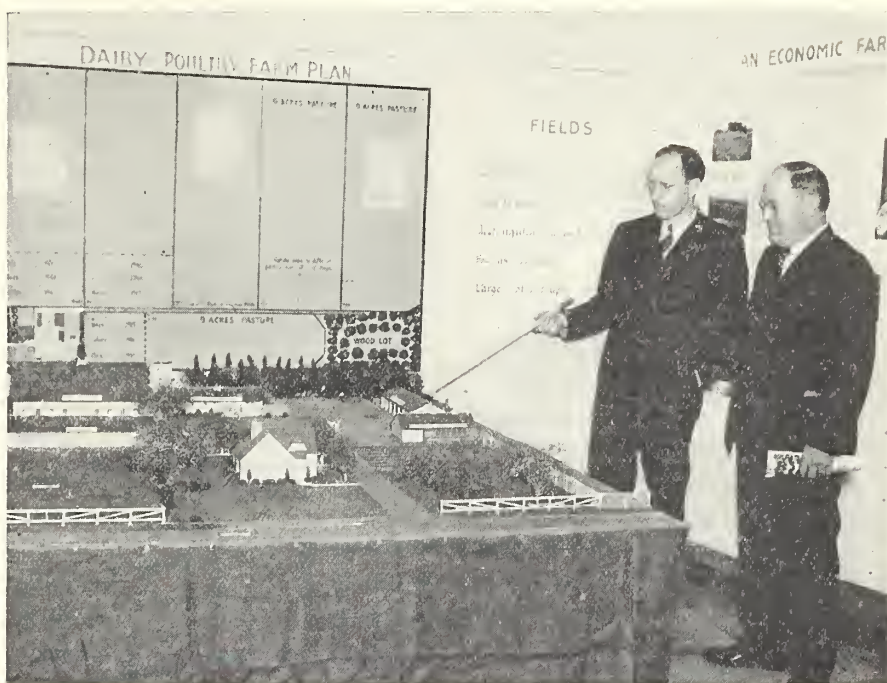
Model Farmstead Featured

One of the high lights of the program is the section on resettlement, which emphasizes the importance of economic farm units. The demonstration features a model farmstead, complete with buildings arranged for convenience and efficiency, and a display of six local soil profiles showing relation to farm income.

Another model 20-acre farm is a section of the poultry demonstration, made to illustrate poultry farming as a way of making a living. The farm is complete with a dwelling, egg house, laying houses for 2,000 chickens, small barn, portable brooder house to brood 2,400 mixed chicks, and even fences.

In the dairy field a model Washington approved milk house with proper equipment is being shown. A demonstration on control of mastitis and one on inheritance in dairy cattle are demonstrated with live animals. Demonstrations are also being given on the control of cattle grubs and hot-iron dehorning of calves.

The WSC army jeep, with trailer attachment and farm implements, is being demonstrated by Howard Detering, a Lewis County farmer, for possible post-war use. A home-made garden tractor, perfected by O. O. Torrey of Opportunity, is also being shown, along with other labor-saving equipment.



A model farm in the resettlement section is one feature of Demonstration Day. This farm typifies a suitable farming unit, planned for greatest convenience, fulfillment of purpose, and conservation of labor. Arthur J. Cagle, extension economist in farm management, is explaining it to Richard Hedges, chairman of the agricultural committee of the Washington State Grange.

Other sections in the agricultural division include a fruit tree exhibit showing the value of approved practices in pruning and fertilization of fruit trees, an exhibit on potato leaf roll and late blight, an exhibit on rat control showing rat harbors and how they can be eliminated, and a full-size model vegetable and fruit storage unit. A projector is being used to show fruit slides.

Homemakers have approved a full-size utility room which combines the washing, ironing, and sewing centers. The utility room has been set up for most efficient service and embodies some new devices to save steps and time.

The food carnival boasts ferris wheel of good freezer locker containers and a merry-go-round of good home-canned foods and different kinds of spoiled or discolored canned foods. The manager of the carnival who is trained in canning explains why these foods have spoiled and answers personal canning questions.

A display of materials needed for a farm freezing plant, including a compressor, valves, strainers, dehydrator, a model coil, and other equipment is explained to homemakers interested in home-built freezing plants.

Recreation leadership training

To keep up morale during stress of war and to give rural young people benefits of supervised recreation, the New Hampshire Extension Service is sponsoring series of institutes in recreation leadership. These have been held in regional centers in different parts of the State under the direction of an extension recreation specialist. Another series of officer-training and program-planning institutes is being conducted under extension leadership in three towns in different sections. Each of these courses has three to five sessions and includes actual demonstrations and practice.

We Study Our Job

Are homemakers learning better nutrition?

Information about nutrition is going out to homemakers in various ways—through the radio, newspapers, and magazines, as well as by means of leaflets, meetings, and nutrition classes. How effective are these channels in spreading nutrition education? How many housewives use such information in planning and preparing their families' meals? How can more be influenced to do so?

These were some of the questions studied in a recent survey made by the Division of Program Surveys, Bureau of Agricultural Economics. In two cities surveyed, nearly all the housewives had received some nutrition information. Most women had picked up items from the radio, newspaper, or their favorite magazines; a few went to community-sponsored classes; others read booklets on the subject. Only a small number, about 10 percent, apparently had no contact with the widespread sources of nutrition information.

Contrary to the popular belief that nutrition knowledge is confined to persons in higher income levels, women in all income and occupational groups had received information.

According to the study, the homemaker's education does have an effect on the likelihood of her receiving information. The more years of formal schooling she has had, the more likely she is to read information about food and to go to nutrition meetings and classes. Women with less education, of course, are just as likely as women with higher education to receive information about food over the radio.

Only two-fifths of the housewives in these two cities understood the concept of a balanced diet. Some of the homemakers interviewed did not readily substitute plentiful foods for those they could not get. Only a few of the women had made important changes in their meal-planning and preparation as a result of their contacts with nutrition programs. For example, some of the women simply tried out a

new recipe or two, but made no basic changes.

Many of the women do not fully understand how the nutrition information they receive in these various ways can help them. For this reason the material put out should be studied beforehand to make sure that it appeals to the homemaker's interest.—HOUSEWIVES DISCUSS NUTRITION PROGRAMS, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U.S.D.A. May 1944.

How the home agent reacts to her job

About one-tenth of our experienced home demonstration agents are taking part in a Nation-wide study of their work. As reported in the analysis of the home demonstration agent's job in the January REVIEW, home agents from 46 States have kept daily records of their work for 2 weeks—one week last spring and one week in the early part of this year.

The agents were asked to indicate in 5-minute intervals, or longer, what they did each day of the week, with what subject-matter field the job was concerned, with whom they worked, and what methods they used. They kept records of the number of miles they traveled and of the number of people contacted.

In addition to recording the use of their time, the agents were asked to comment on their reactions to their job. Most of the agents seemed very well adjusted to their jobs; 35 percent did not consider any inconveniences worth mentioning; 22 percent found nothing to cause nerve strain or undue fatigue.

The home agents' greatest satisfactions are: Being of service to rural people; seeing families improve their standards of living because of extension teaching; and making friends with rural people.

Records and reports are the agents' greatest trial; more than half of the agents said they disliked this part of their job, or it caused them greatest nerve strain.

More often than not, the home agents felt "some" difficulty rather than "much" difficulty in carrying on various activities of their home demonstration work. The different jobs which were reported as giving them "much" difficulty were:

(1) To obtain records of practices adopted by rural people.

(2) To secure leaders who will function.

(3) To train neighborhood leaders.

(4) To determine standards for measuring results.

(5) To keep up on outside interests.

About a third of the home agents considered their long hours, especially night meetings, their crowded schedules and many interruptions wearing. Loading and unloading equipment, and having no time for themselves were two other frequently mentioned trials in the life of the home demonstration agent.

Half of the agents reporting were more than 35 years of age and about half had served less than 5 years as home agent. In addition to their college home economics training most of them had taken at least one college course in some related subject matter that made them more helpful to farm families. At least 4 out of 5 agents had taken a course in psychology and one in economics. More of them had taken courses in art than in rural social organization; more of them had studied vegetable gardening and poultry management than office management; only 1 out of 14 had taken college training in poultry management; and 2 out of 5 had taken a course in extension methods.

To keep up to date in their work, most agents read 3 magazines—a scientific professional, a popular professional, and a homemaking magazine.

The agents indicated they wished to take special summer training courses and would also like to visit from county to county and from State to State to study extension work.

The REVIEW will run further accounts of this long-time study as it progresses.

Electric cords repaired

■ Mrs. Agnes Fugle, farm homemaker of Clackamas County, is proud of her ability to fix worn electrical extension and equipment cords. She is typical of hundreds of Oregon homemakers who are learning to make minor repairs on electrical equipment used in the home.

The cord has been aptly called the "life line" of equipment. During the past 2 years, as cords needed repair, homemakers have found that the copper and rubber previously used for cord manufacture are needed for the war effort, so little new can be purchased. Electrical service men are engaged in defense work or the armed forces, and the man of the family is too busy with other farm and home work to stop and fix a faulty cord. So when the women found that the job of repair was up to them, they asked for help. In 12 Oregon counties a home economics unit meeting was devoted to teaching simple electrical

repair. Cords and electrical equipment in need of "fixing" were brought to the meeting place by the women. Here, under the direction of the county home demonstration agent, the repairs were made and the article tested.

Women who have been a little leery about tampering with anything connected with electricity have gained the confidence that comes with a thorough understanding of the job. Several have remarked at the end of the day: "That's easy," and "I can't wait to get home and show my husband."

Many Oregon rural homemakers have had electricity only a short time. They are interested in how to prevent trouble. Good practices to observe in caring for equipment are demonstrated at the meetings. Short circuits, blown fuses, and safety measures are popular subjects for discussion.—*Lois A. Lutz, extension specialist, home management, Oregon.*

habits, demonstrations on safety, first aid, fire prevention, and health examinations, according to J. A. Lennox, assistant State 4-H leader.

Aims of the health improvement project in 4-H Clubs are to encourage the correction of remediable defects, to encourage protective immunizations as recommended by health officials, to encourage the acquirement of good habits, and to help the community in promoting public health and safety.

What of tomorrow

Though written 22 years ago by Reuben Brigham, assistant director, this little piece is timely right now.

What of the future of extension work? Will its influence grow and widen? Will it continue to develop the intelligent and progressive leadership that has been its finest contribution in past years? What of its tomorrow? Will it adapt itself to the needs of a new generation, of new problems, of a forward day in agriculture and among the farming people? Will the past be its inspiration and not its limitation? Will it discard worn-out nonessentials and keep the live essentials that have made it the leader of rural progress?

I like to think so. In this connection, I bring to your attention a passage from *The Promised Land* by Mary Antin. She says, "The world demands masterpieces but does not ask that everyone be born a master genius. A race, a kingdom, a community accepts an ideal of life, and all high and low may contribute to making the glorious dream come true. What care we for our yesterdays so they were spent nobly, earnestly, lovingly in the service of the universe? We may drift away some day, and who shall care or what shall it matter so we have concerned ourselves with fashioning the masterpiece that all shall possess in common." America is such a masterpiece in the making, a masterpiece of human lives, of happy homes, of enlightened neighborhoods—a nation whose country people are inspired with the possible greatness of everyday life. Shall we forsake this ideal, or shall we follow it to the end of our lives? Into our hands is given the building of this, our masterpiece. I ask you, "How shall we build?"

Building interest in school lunch

■ Colored stars on a chart are indicating to rural school children in Rock County, Wis., how they stack up with their fellow classmates in the school lunch program.

Ann Kyle, county home agent, reports that the pupils' names and the weeks of the school year are shown on the wall charts. If a child has milk in his lunch every day for a week, a star of one color is put after his name. If he has a hot dish every day for a week, he gets a star of a different color; and if he has both milk and a hot dish every day for a week, a star of still another color is placed after his name.

The school lunch program is promoted by a committee composed of the home agent, the county superintendent of schools, the county supervising teachers, and the county nurse. The committee is promoting the pint-jar method of providing a hot dish; the child brings soup, chili, a vegetable, or a baked dish to school in a pint jar, and it is warmed up at the school for lunch.

To simplify carrying a lunch, Miss Kyle is suggesting to mothers that

they buy or make knapsacks that fit on the back of the child. The knapsack has room for the pint jar or a thermos bottle and sandwiches, and has a book section as well. Many mothers and members of homemakers' groups are buying or making knapsacks after seeing the sample Miss Kyle is showing.

4-H promotes public health

As part of their contribution to the war program in 1944, the 4-H Clubs of New York State report a number of projects in the field of public health.

During the past year, 3,310 members were enrolled in health improvement, 4,335 in home nursing and first aid, and 1,391 in fire prevention.

In the State 4-H health improvement contest, Seneca County scored highest, with Franklin County the runner-up. Agents in these counties are Carleton Edwards of Waterloo and J. Frank Stephens of Malone.

Club leaders have planned activities such as checking food and health

The once-over

Reflecting the news of the month as we go to press

CHILD HEALTH DAY will again be held on May 1 this year and will emphasize birth registration. As it appears that the greatest failure in birth registration occurs in rural areas, the help of extension agents is needed. Agents in counties with Spanish-speaking peoples and Negro agents are especially asked to cooperate this year in getting all births registered.

HOME EQUIPMENT RESEARCH was the subject of a recent conference held at Cornell University which was sponsored by the National Work Simplification project. This conference brought together research workers in home equipment from the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the land-grant colleges and research workers from the leading manufacturers of home equipment. The purpose was an exchange of ideas on designing home equipment for functional efficiency and to develop a way of continuing this exchange among the groups represented. The equipment under consideration included kitchen cabinets and sinks, refrigerators, ranges, and washing machines.

MUSIC STILL HATH POWER to aid in reconciliation of peoples, power to unify various peoples, which will be emphasized during National and Inter-American Music Week, May 6-13. The theme will be Use Music to Foster Unity for the War and the Peace to Follow. Pamphlets and other material are available through the National and Inter-American Music Week Committee, 315 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

TO LIGHTEN THE BURDEN and increase the efficiency of Oregon farmers and homemakers, an efficiency caravan, containing about 40 different ways of making the work easier, toured 18 counties in western Oregon last month, making about 22 stops to demonstrate manure loaders, buck rakes, post-hole diggers, tilt-top implement trailers, milk carts, and other labor-saving devices to the men. The homemakers inspected an actual-size kitchen sink, a utility table, work clothes, portable wood box, lapboard, laundry cart, and a wide ironing board. They watched the demonstrations in

efficient ironing, canning, drying, and freezing of food and the preparing and packing of lunches.

ON THE ILLINOIS CIRCUIT, 2 trucks loaded with labor-saving equipment are making 1-day stands in 24 counties. At each stop, a most important part of the show is the local exhibit of labor-saving devices, inventions, and gadgets brought in by local people, which are judged by a local committee and prizes given for the best devices. The first show in Champaign County, January 12, was attended by 500 folks, with 12 farmers bringing in 17 different gadgets. The first prize was awarded for a simple home-made automatic device to shut off the windmill when the water tank is filled.

THE STORY DIDN'T DO JUSTICE to the facts in the case of the picture of the sewing machine clinic in Westport, Mass., published on page 6 of the January issue. It appears that Professor Tague, shown in the picture, was released from the Army Air Corps Engineering program at Massachusetts State College and assigned to the Extension Service from April 17 to November 1, 1944. In that time he conducted 144 clinics with an attendance of 1,485 homemakers, each of whom brought a sewing machine ranging in age from 1 to 60 years. One homemaker carried a 35-pound port-

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able sewing machine 3 miles to get to the clinic. In one county, 32 women are acting as volunteer leaders to pass along their information on how to clean and adjust a sewing machine.

AN AGRICULTURAL MISSIONS WORKSHOP was held February 6-16 in Washington through the cooperation of the Federal Extension staff, Agricultural Missions, Inc., and the Rural Missions Cooperating Committee of the Foreign Missions Conference of North America. Under the direction of Douglas Ensminger, a group of 28 missionaries saw demonstrations of extension methods and discussed how they might be applied to home and village life in other countries.

WHEN WE'RE GREEN WE GROW is the title of the new history of home demonstration work in North Carolina, written by Dr. Jane S. McKimmon, for so many years the guiding spirit of the successful home demonstration movement in North Carolina and an inspiration to extension workers everywhere. The book was scheduled to come out in February and will be reviewed later in the "Have you read" column.

A SCHOOL LUNCH PLAY called "Before and After," easy to produce and suitable for almost any group, is available from the War Food Administration, either from the regional office or from Washington. The play, written by Aileen Fisher, takes a cast of 12 characters and very simple stage properties.

THE HOUSING JOB AHEAD was indicated in a recent talk by Secretary Wickard when he said "There are, roughly, 6½ million dwellings on farms in this country. Five million of these houses are occupied by farm operators, and about 2 million are fairly satisfactory. The other 3 million are inadequate. About half of them could be fixed up, but half are beyond repair."

A WARTIME DISCUSSION GROUP is keeping up with the world through the New York State Farm Forum organized under an Extension Service committee of supervisors and specialists who issue at irregular intervals a farm forum circular to "stimulate reading, study, and discussion of public problems and issues."